



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bishop Field Office  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100  
Bishop, CA 93514  
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[www.blm.gov/ca/bishop](http://www.blm.gov/ca/bishop)



December 31, 2012

NOPA CAC070-13-001  
8500 CA-170.51 (P)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to inform affected or interested publics about any proposed action, specific emergencies, or unauthorized activity occurring within BLM managed Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Enclosed is a Notice of Proposed Action with information about the BLM's intent to treat invasive plants on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office. Some of the proposed treatments may occur within designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. If you have any questions concerning this proposed action please contact Casey Boyd at (760) 872-5025 or via email at [cboyd@blm.gov](mailto:cboyd@blm.gov), or Kirstin Heins at (760) 872-5034 or via email at [kheins@blm.gov](mailto:kheins@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Bernadette Lovato  
Bernadette Lovato  
Bishop Field Manager

cc: Mark Conley  
enc: NOPA for Invasive Plant Treatment

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION (NOPA) CAC070-13-001

**State:** California

**County:** Inyo and Mono Counties

**Field Office:** Bureau of Land Management  
Bishop Field Office  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100  
Bishop CA 93514

**Wilderness Area(s):** Inyo Mountains  
Granite Mountain

**Wilderness Study Area(s):** Bodie (CA-010-099)  
Bodie Mountain (CA-010-100)  
Casa Diablo (CA-010-082)  
Cerro Gordo (CA-010-055)  
Chidago Canyon (CA-010-079)  
Crater Mountain (CA-010-062)  
Excelsior (CA-010-088)  
Fish Slough (CA-010-080)  
Independence Creek (CA-010-057)  
Mount Biedeman (CA-010-095)  
Slinkard (CA-010-0105)  
Southern Inyo (CA-010-056)  
Symmes Creek (CA-010-064)  
Volcanic Tableland (CA-010-081)

**Proposed Action:** Invasive plant treatments on public lands

### **Background**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to treat small scale populations of invasive plants on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office in Inyo and Mono counties, California. The purpose of the proposed action is to control, and eradicate where possible, known and emerging populations of invasive plants. If approved, implementation of the proposed action would result in the targeted treatment of small scale invasive plant populations on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office including some sites within designated Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas.

Over the next several months, the BLM will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze and disclose the potential effects of a targeted integrated pest management (IPM) program. The EA will tier to the 2007 Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM

Lands in 17 Western States Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
(<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/weeds.html>).

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to review the proposed action and to help the BLM identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EA. Table 1 provides a list of invasive plants that are known or likely to occur on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office that may be treated under the proposed action. Other invasive plants, such as those identified in the Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area (ESWMA) Noxious Weed Identification Handbook would be treated where encountered if the potential effects of treatment are similar to those analyzed in the forthcoming EA. Table 2 provides a list of potential treatment options being considered.

### **Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The purpose of the proposed action is to control or eradicate existing and future invasive plant populations in order to prevent adverse impacts to resources on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office. Early detection and rapid treatment of invasive plants is considered the most effective way to control invasive plants, to reduce potential adverse impacts to other resources, and to minimize treatment costs.

The proposed action is needed because invasive plants have the potential to rapidly degrade biologic and hydrologic systems on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office as well as on adjacent national forest and private lands. Currently, known populations of invasive plants in the field office area are characterized by small, isolated populations.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to treat known occurrences of small populations of invasive plants using a combination of manual and chemical methods. Implementation of the proposed action would also provide for treatment of future populations occurring in similar habitats. The objective of the proposed action is to treat populations early, while they are small in extent, and bring them under control using the most efficient and effective methods currently available to the BLM in California.

Populations would be evaluated for treatment type based on knowledge of the plant species and potential effects of the treatments. If the BLM determines that a population could be effectively controlled without the use of herbicide, the population would be treated by manual means only. For some invasive plants, manual treatment alone is not likely to be successful and therefore the use of herbicide would be required for effective control. Herbicides would not be used in areas where the BLM determines that herbicide use would pose unnecessary risks or cause inadvertent impacts to other resources. As currently proposed, a maximum of 50 acres could be treated annually with herbicide over the next 10 years for a total of 500 acres. Treated populations may need re-treatment in subsequent years for full control and those treatments would count towards the annual total. Treatments would occur at known infestation sites throughout the field office as well as at locations found after completion of this EA.

#### Proposed Methods:

- Manual treatment would include the use of hand tools and hand-operated power tools to dig out or cut the target plant near the ground surface or to remove the flowering or fruiting parts of the plant.
- Manual treatment may also include individually pulling out small plants.
- Chemical treatment would involve spot application of the most suitable herbicide for the target plant that has been approved by the BLM and is registered for use in California.
- All herbicide applications would be conducted under an approved pesticide use proposal (PUP).

For some populations, a combination of manual and chemical methods would be utilized to achieve control.

Table 1: Invasive Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name
Saltcedar (tamarisk)	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> , <i>T. aphylla</i> , <i>T. parviflora</i>
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Perennial pepperweed (whiteweed)	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i> , <i>S. paulsenii</i>
Cheatgrass (downy brome)	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>

Table 2: Plant Treatment Options

Treatment Type	Treatment
Manual	Hand pulling of target plants
Manual	Use of hand and power tools to remove target plant and/or make plant more susceptible to an herbicide treatment
Chemical*	Treat the target plant with an approved suitable herbicide

\*Chemical treatment would involve the spot application of the most suitable herbicide for the target plant based on the approved active ingredient. All chemical treatments would be conducted consistent with the herbicide label.

\*Only herbicide active ingredients approved in the 17 Western States EIS Record of Decision (2007 ROD) and registered for use in California will be considered.

#### **Other Alternatives**

A No Action alternative and a Manual Treatment Only (no herbicide use) alternative will also be analyzed in the EA.

## **Public Comments**

We welcome any comments, questions or alternatives you may have regarding the proposed action and/or the associated environmental review. The public scoping period is open; to be considered in the analysis **scoping comments should be received by February 1, 2013**. Please send written comments to the address below, or by email to [cboyd@blm.gov](mailto:cboyd@blm.gov).

Bureau of Land Management  
Bishop Field Office  
Attn: Casey Boyd  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100  
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Once completed, the EA will be posted on the BLM internet site for public review and comment for 30 days at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop.html>. If you are unable to access the internet and would like a hardcopy of the EA, please contact our office.

Thank you for your interest in proposed invasive plant management activities on public lands administered by the Bishop Field Office. Please contact Casey Boyd at (760) 872-5025, or [cboyd@blm.gov](mailto:cboyd@blm.gov), should you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this letter or the upcoming environmental review.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Lovato  
Bishop Field Manager